

MARY WEEDMAN.

MAY 25, 1842.

Read, and laid upon the table.

Mr. COWEN, from the Committee of Claims, made the following

REPORT :

*The Committee of Claims, to which was referred the memorial of Mary Weedman, widow of Philip Weedman, deceased, report :*

That the memorialist sets forth that, previous to the negotiation of the treaty for the removal of the Seminole Indians, her husband and family, consisting of herself, five unmarried daughters, and three sons, resided on the Picolata road, about eleven miles from the city of St. Augustine, and lived by cultivating a farm, raising stock, &c., from which they derived a comfortable support, until driven off by the hostilities which ensued in consequence of the steps taken by the Government to effect the removal of these people. At the commencement of the depredations that followed, their stock of cattle and hogs were driven off or destroyed, their buildings and fences subsequently burnt, and your memorialist's husband, the father of said family, in attempting to go out to his former residence, was killed by the Indians on the road, almost within sight of this city, and his youngest son, who was with him at the time, so mangled that he was left for dead. By this dreadful calamity your petitioner and her family have been reduced from comparative affluence to a state of suffering and dependence in her old days.

The memorialist further sets forth that her deceased husband, previous to his murder by the savages, as before stated, had presented his claim for the injuries and losses he had sustained, which she supposes is still before the Government, as it has not yet been paid to her : she therefore, in behalf of herself and her suffering family, most earnestly implores that such pecuniary relief may be awarded to her as justice and a proper sympathy for their afflictions may dictate.

This claim is unsupported by any other testimony than the mere statement of the facts above set forth by the memorialist ; but if all the facts were proved as stated, they would only constitute a case of loss by Indian depredations, which has never been recognised as forming the basis of a claim on the Government of the United States ; and, however the sympathies of the committee may be operated on, they are compelled, by a sense of duty, to give it as their opinion that the petitioner has no claim upon the Government of the United States, and offer for the adoption of the House the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That the prayer of the petitioner be rejected.

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